MY BIRTHDAY.

The little folks came in last night And stood beside my chair. Then boldly climbed upon my knees. And safely nestled then "This is your birthday, don't you know?"

I ventured my surprise; They brought their little presents out; I looked with wondering eyes.

"We think you're just the nicest man That ever lived," they said, "And we intend to stay until It's time to go to bed."

My thoughts ran swiftly back and forth, As shuttle through the loom; Old memories with dusk came in And filled the silent room.

I saw the farm gate open wide. The lowing herd pass through: The lilac bush and climbing rose, Drenched with the morning dew.

The cornfield, rich with tasseled brown And cherry-colored silk: The shepherd dog, the flock of sheep With fleece as white as milk. The cabin home, with low-roofed porch

And window on the side. Where purple morning glories trailed As robes of queenly bride. The locust grove, with odor sweet From silver blossoms white:

The old crab orchard on the hill. Where birds sang on till night. My mother, in her rocking-chair, Beneath the morning sheen, And heard her sing "Sweet Fields Beyond

Stand Dressed in Living Green. I started, for the fire burned low: The ashes, white and free, Were crumbling, and the little ones Were sleeping on my knee.

The hour was late; the gifts they'd brought Had fallen to the floor: I turned from scenes of yesterday Into the open door

Of better years and nobler things Content to look from faded past To "Hills of Living Green." -A. M. Bruner, in Chicago Inter Ocean.

LON'S TRIUMPH.

BY MARY B. DOWNS

"Seems to me Lon carries all his small brains in that button on his coat instead of in his head, like folks that God made." Thad was sitting on the bench beside Ordelia when he said this, sharpening her pencils with his new knife. "Lon's right nervous. I reckon he'll never get used to reciting before folks," Take position. You are dismissed." said Ordelia. "Lon's smart, though," she added, demurely. "Smart! He couldn't answer boo to

a question without that button to twist his fingers on." "Anyhow, wherever his brains are, he

makes good recitations," persited Ordelia. "Cuts a right foolish figure at it, jus

the same." "Who's that you're calling 'foolish?" " asked an awkward boy, who had planted himself before Ordelia's desk. She looked up, laughed, and said:

without that button to twist." Lon's freckled face flushed sensitively. "What'll you bet?" he asked, turn-

ing on Thad. "I'll bet a half dollar that you can't explain one example in mental arith- it has never been determined just where. metic straight without yanking it all

out of that button of yours." "All right, I'll bet," said Lon, recklesssmile at the button in question, which dangled by a frail thread or two from his coat.

"I reckon I'm bound to do without it." he remarked, "if I don't get it sewed

"Oh, I'll sew it on for you, if you'll you've won the bet," said Ordelia, light-

The news of the challenge went round, and for once interest was roused in the mental arithmetic recitation. "Therefore"-Ordelia thus concluded

her problem-"the man had 601/2 geese to begin with." Ending with glib confidence, she folded her hands behind her, poised lightly on her shapely feet and looked with smiling complacency at the "next."

The "next" was Lon. The whole school belonged to the mental arithmetic class, but of the craning line that had toed the crack from the water bucket to the blackboard at the beginning of the recitation only three scholars now remained on the floor-Ordelia, Lon and Thad.

"Next!" Lon's slender figure shot up in rigid attention. He folded his arms resolutely across his breast and waited.

Ordelia, on one side, graceful and serene, waited, too, and on his other side stood Thad, his feet widely planted purple chin. Thad, with his usual asand his face darkly flushed.

The teacher, Miss Molly, read the problem slowly and distinctly. Lon rethen took up the explanation with confidence. Ordelia settled back into her of his history book. place and glanced about in triumph. Thad's brow began to straighten in a dark scowl. The school held its breath "Letting 2-2 represent the number of

sheep that the man had in the first number of sheep that he bought. Then -then the-the whole number of sheep that he owned-the whole number of sheep that he owned-the whole number of sheep would be represented by 3-2, which, according to the problemwhich, according to the problem, and norther scouted such frail defenses. 21/2 sheep-I mean which, according It seized the sides of the house and to"-Lon's arms relaxed. His nervous shook them till they swayed. It

Lon's stammering tongue stopped al- back the warmth of the stanch little together. There was a moment of stove.

with you?" Thad's fist doubled and he watching the red fingers of Gistee and under one of the links and then using a fell back defiant.

cut off my button." "I never cut off your precious but-

"You lie!"

struck into the din. The hubub ceased. less serious contest. There he made a "cutout,"

The excited children shrank back in seat of his book, settled his chin in his their seats.

"There, that will do!" gasped the teacher. "You may take your seats, boys, Ordelia; the class is dismissed. The school may come to order. Now we will have a season of quiet."

Miss Molly clasped her hands upon her desk, and looked coldly down one side of the room and up the other. In proportion to the number of pu-

sired space for calisthenics, the children had ranged their desks on opposite sides of the room, and behold! the Baptists all on one side, the Methodists on

At present Methodists and Baptists should either laugh or cry. Two bright | pipe had settled, leaving an open space Thad, opposite, was casting anxious ing toward the draft of the brick chimglances toward her. Lon, on the same ney above; but the wind, breathing unanger, his lips closely pressed.

It was already past time for school to close. The younger children looked slysighed.

The geese came waddling past from leaped to Miss Molly's desk. the pond, screaming in shrillest derinoses through a broken window, flung excitedly. up their heels and dashed away. But the clock ticked on, and Miss Molly continued to look out of the window. Suddenly the "season of quiet" was broken

by a shrill announcement. "He didn't cut it off. He done jerked it off. I saw him." It was the voice of the first reader class-of Pouley, who feet had touched the floor. sat alone in the shadow of Miss Molly's desk, carefully shoved back until all but his wriggly toes were out of sight of Miss Molly's eves.

At this audacious outburst from the youngest class, Guy and Gistee, the second class, turned their backs and clapped their hands over their mouths; ment escaped between their fingers. Miss Molly opened her report book, looked at the convulsed school, and quietly replaced the book in the desk.

"I shall not call for reports to-night. Lon strode across the room, snatched his hat and flung out of the door. Then he sprang back and faced Thad.

"I'll get even with you for that dirty mean trick, and don't you forget it!" Thad shrugged his shoulders, turned on his beel, and walked over to Ordelia. She held the lest button in her hand, and took a step toward the door, but Lon was gone.

Methodist church. When the fine new church was completed, the old building became a schoolhouse, and although its "Thad says you can't recite a word | timbers are rotten, and everybody ob- | contents would have been belched forth ing, there it still stands to this day-one in Mr. Oscar's cane patch, one corner in and raised it to a level. the public road, and the other corner-

Fortunately for the school, the line of Mr. Oscar's cane patch runs just through the crack of the double front door, so ly. Then he looked down with a rueful | that a sufficient length of the steps remained unfenced, to afford to Miss Molly and the children unobstructed entrance

One day-a February day in that sunny south-when the class in denominate numbers was required to estimate the area of the whole interior of the house, stop at the house this evening-after with a view to putting in a ceiling with out knotholes and a floor that would not wobble, an ill wind from Miss Molly's cold home away up north swooped down into the piny woods and came nigh to sweeping the steadfast old Methodist church quite beyond the possibilities of

> reconstruction. How everybody did shiver, and how the angry flames roared in the heaped fireplaces! There was no fireplace in the schoolhouse, but there was a stove -a very plucky stove, too. It stood on one leg of its own and three of brick and puffed away until it was red all over. reckless of the fact that at any moment the stovepipe might topple or telescope down and set fire to the schoolhouse. It was Lon's day to provide fuel, and

a great pile of lightwood and pine knots

overflowed the wood box. The children had gathered in a close circle about the stove, screening their faces as best they could from the scorching heat of the fire, and forgetting the shivers behind in complacent contemsurance, had placed himself beside Ordelia. Ordelia perused her book, coolly

Lon had been in the dumps ever since the loss of his button, and it was understood by the school that he was likely to remain in that unhappy state of mind until he had thought out some adequate revenge for Thad's meanness. Accordingly, since the morning when he Mifflin, overhearing the remark, exber of sheep-of sheep that-yes, the had shortly refused to permit Ordelia claimed: to sew on the button, the school had

let him respectfully alone. The door of the schoolhouse had been closed, even locked, against the weather. The windows had been stuffed with hats and bonnets. But the boisterous fingers went searching for the inspiring screamed through cracks and whistled through knot-holes; it swept under the Ordelia's smile changed to chagrin, rotten sills and sifted up through the Thad's face broadened with a derisive floor. Above, below, and on every side army to do so, for, badly as we want grin. A laugh went round the school. it entered, cold and gusty, pressing such men as you, I cannot afford to keep

silence; then the mortified boy turned Miss Molly, with her feet on a sheepupon Thad in a fury. "You sneak!" skin and her hands muffled in her coat- be finally strung across the river, where "I ain't a sneak! What's the matter sleeves, sat with her back to the school, Guy trace a sentence on the blackboard. sledge hammer and a chisel, it was ulti-"No one but a sneak would play a fel- Seizing the opportunity, Thad stuffed mately cut apart.—Harper's Round low such a low-down trick as that. I'd the stove full of fat pine. The flames Table. hke to know what business you have to took a moment to grasp the fuel, then mounted merrily.

There was a cautious shoving back of certain little mechanical device is called benches and chairs. The first reader in Germany "Automatischespiegelglassclass, Pouley, having craned his neck plattenbliizshutzvorrichtung." As its The school uprose with one accord. to make sure that Miss Molly was not name clearly indicates, it is an appara-Beats clattered and indignant voices looking, stealthily retired into the inrang: "He did!" "He didn't!" "I saw viting cavern under the rostrum, where him!" "You never!" the pinching drafts of the norther and matically. In this country we are in the The sharp tap of the teacher's bell the parching heat of the stove were in habit of calling this simple device a

palms, and, gazing serenely upward, observed the phenomenon of red creep-

ing up the wavering line of stovepipe. Miss Molly's pencil dropped from her stiffened fingers, and, stooping to pick it up, she spied through a crack the image of Pouley's placid contemplation beneath her feet. Drawing the congealed muscles of her face to a frown. she opened her lips to issue a sharp pils, the schoolroom was very large. At summons, when out popped Pouley into the suggestion of Miss Molly, who de- the middle of the room, pointing up ward and shouting: "Quick! quick! The house done

caught afire!" The smaller children huddled toward the other. And there they sat fact to the door. Some of the older ones face—an arrangement that added zest scrambled for their books and hats to responsive Bible reading in the morn- Miss Molly stepped swiftly from the ing, and to all manner of school con- rostrum to Pouley's desk, thence to the

Ordelia, big Hayes, Thad and Lor sat in irreproachable order, their hands stood beside her. Looking up through clasped convulsively on the desks, their | the pipehole in the ceiling, they plainly faces averted or lowered, lest they saw the danger. A length of the stovespots burned on Ordelia's cheeks, but between it and the next length. Swift she sat perfectly still, her eyes down. flames were pouring into the pipe, striv. side of the room as Ordelia, but several der the eaves, blew the fiery column seats removed, was staring straight be- aside so that the hot flames licked the fore him, his gray eyes snapping with roof. The curling shingles were already smoking; in a moment they

would be aflame. With three bounds Lon was out of the ly at the solemn clock, and softly door. He seized the ax from the woodpile, dashed back into the room, and

"That's the go! Rip her down! Hi, sion. Mr. Oscar's mules thrust their big Hayes, catch hold!" shouted Thad,

> With a mighty spring Haves caught the board that Lon had pried loose, and both swinging from it, they peeled it down, leaving a wide opening in the ceiling overhead.

> "Now, then, up with you and wipe her out!" directed Thad, even before their Ordelia turned upon him. "Wipe it out yourself!" she flashed.

Thad gave her one surprised look then swung up into the loft. "Fling me something to work with!" he shout-Lon jerked off his coat and tossed it up; then, snatching the bucket from Miss Molly, he threw the stove door but in spite of their desperate efforts wide and began to dash cautious cups at self-control, little squeaks of merri- of water upon the hissing fire. Choking smoke and steam poured into the room, but the leaping flames died down quickly, and the red-hot glow soon began to

fade from the stove and pipe. "How are you coming on up there?" coughed big Hayes, trying to peer up through the smoke.

"All right-I've put it out. Look away there! I'm coming down." Thad's cowhide shoes appeared, swinging out of the smoky atmosphere. "Hold on, there!" shouted Lon. But

his caution was too late. Down plumped Thad with a jar that shook the house. The frail stovepipe rattled to the floor. Thad lost his balance and sprawled upon Miss Molly's school-room was the old the floor, one of his clumsy legs kicking out two brick props from the stove. The end of the stove dropped with a thud; another moment its entire fiery

jects to it as an eyesore to the clear- upon Thad's prostrate form had not Lon caught the stove with his bare corner in the old graveyard, one corner hands without a second's hesitation, Ordelia darted for the scattered bricks and drove them into place, feeling the

while that hot rim smoking into Lon's hands, and smelling the singing flesh. When she sprang to her feet she saw Thad leap to Lon's support. "Lor! What did you do that for?

e gasped, his lips quivering. Lon rallied. "Didn't I promise to get even with you?" he shouted. Then he

fainted. When he came to himself the sullenness that had possessed him for the past week was no longer in his eyes, and e could smile, spite of the smarting

Ordelia anointed his blistered hands with sweet gum salve, and skillfully yound them in torn handkerchiefs. Hayes picked up the fallen pipe. A moderate fire was awakened in the stove, and the school resumed their

Contrary to the expectations of the chool, Lon did not sit beside Ordelia. But neither did Thad. The two boys, enemies that morning, sat side by side, looking over the same book, Thad flushed and ashamed, Lon pale but triumphant; for had he not returned evil with good?

Lon's coat had been ruined by the fire, so Ordelia did not have the pleasure of sewing the button on; but this was of no consequence, for during a week of stubborn resolution Lon had learned to recite without it .- Youth's Companion.

INCIDENT OF THE REVOLUTION. plation of Miss Molly's red nose and The Famous Chain Stretched Across the Hudson River.

There are not many people who would recognize in the name of Samuel Wheelindifferent to his presence. Lon sat er a person who did valuable service for peated it in a clear, defiant voice and apart from everyone and deigned to our country in the war of the revolulook neither to the right nor to the left tion. It was he who made the famous chain that was stretched across the Hudson river to stop British warships from ascending the stream. At the ime Gen. Washington was puzzled about defending the river.

"I wish I could get a chain made, but that is impossible," he said, and Gen.

"Not so. We have a man in the army a townsman of mine, one Wheeler, who can make such a chain."

Gen. Washington had Wheeler brought to him, and said: "I want a chain to put across the North river to stop the British ships. Can you

make it?" "I can," replied Wheeler, "but I cannot do it here."

"Then," said Washington, "I will cheerfully give you dismission from the

Mr. Wheeler made the chain, and its it did good service. By building a fire

-The Electrical World says that a

THE PROMISE THAT FAILED. How the People Were "Sold" by the

McKinley Crowd. The general public has become somewnat accustomed to the great disapmonths ago. It having been settled that the promise of prosperity was nothing more than a bunco game, the selves to the task of bearing the hard times and the growing stringency as tions: best they can, satisfied, at least, that

they were successfully "worked." Occasionally, however, we still find expressions of dissatisfaction; sarcastic comments on the gullibility of the public, and caustic references to the grand republican rainbow of promise, in contemplation of which the American people were so easily "sold." Rev. J. C. Hogan, of Forest City, Pa., a Methodist clergyman, who is well known in this city, recently wrote a letter to the Carbondale Leader, bearing on the republican promise of prosperity, and the pith of his communication is found in the following excerpt: tariff. "I am looking for the 'Advance Agent of Prosperity.' Evidently he is lost, stolen or

strayed, and I want to send word to the public through your valuable paper. "A few months ago we were told to vote for 'McKinley and Prosperity.' The undersigned then stated that the people could get McKinley by voting for him, but doubted if this would bring prosperity. To-day reports from the large cities relative to the number of unemployed show that there are over 4,500,000 men out of work. There are 200,000 in New York, 150,000 in Philadelphia, 50,000 in San Francisco, 20,000 in Detroit, 20,000 in Cleveland, 15,000 in Cincinnati, 75,000 in Boston, and so on. During the past few weeks widespread destitution has een reported by the papers.

"Where is the prosperity that was to follow? "It will hardly satisfy us to say that that was needed to usher in a paradise of 'existing gold standard' that we now have, and immediately after the election ignorant partisans and pulpit orators 'pointed with pride' to the 'great boom in business' as a proof that the announcement of republican success had brought us an overproduction of 'confidence.'

"But since the late lamented election many private banks, miscalled national, have gone republican, too. Over 30 of these banks at the west failed during the month

of December. "Here in Forest City, preceding the elecheld a meeting in the opera house, at which a certain ancient 'statesman' discoursed on the beauties of sound money and confidence. The boys organized and sat up nights to sing for 'McKinley and Protection,' and they are now getting it at the rate of seven days per month. They even tramped in parades with the 'bosses' in command in carriages. And lo! even the 'bosses' have now been placed on half time. A thing which has never been known Prosperity.'

in one way, but fails to work the other way.

so zealously spoke and voted in favor of to contribute food and clothes for the poor, but it is better to work for conditions under which none need to be poor. A just social and industrial system would make honest the programme is.—N. Y. Jour-

Mr. Hogan gives strong and graphic expression to his estimate of the situation, but his view of the case is not, in other respects, a whit different from the view entertained by the people, who are not saying much, of course, but were "roped in." For it is hardly to be doubted that the promise of prosperity

PROFITABLE GENEROSITY. The Deal Between McKinley and

When the history of the McKinley story of how Alger obtained the offer

of a place in the cabinet. No one familiar with the career of satisfied with the explanation that he was asked to take a seat in the cabinet in order to reconcile Foraker to Hanna's ambition to go to the senate. The

the bargain. Far more convincing than the Hanna explanation is the information sent from Chicago that Alger's name occupies a conspicuous place in the list of the financial bog into which he was

Hanna syndicate. Gratitude is a good thing, but is not Maj. McKinley's gratitude for Gen. Alger's generosity too much of a good thing? A glance at the lumber schedule of the Dingley tariff bill shows that plums. Gratitude slops over when the waters returns in the form of pie and

His gratitude is creditable, but we must protest against his manner of showing it. If he pays all of them as he proposes will be bankrupt in honor and pocket. -St. Louis Republic.

OPINIONS AND POINTERS.

-The Ohio republicans call the Lanesville meeting a "love feast." The emblem of love in Ohio is a knife up the sleeve.-St. Louis Republic.

-As far as can be ascertained at scheme most favored by congress is constructed on the old-fashioned, crazyquilt pattern.-Chicago Record (Ind.). are infinitely increased.—Utica Ob- power.—Atlanta Constitution. proval of state bosses the perplexities

Prosperity must take a back seat for the present.—Binghamton (N. Y.) Judgment upon this policy.—N. Y. Leader.

"A LIE WELL STUCK TO."

Republicans Adhere to Their Doctrine of Falsehood.

The republican party, as represented by Senator Platt and his organs, appointment it began to experience pears to be convinced of the correctness shortly after the November election be- of the old proverb: "A lie well stuck to cause of the failure of the promised is as good as the truth." Ignoring the prosperity to materialize, and, as a well-known fact that, as Senator Canconsequence, we don't hear so much non says, the ballots counted for Mcabout it now as we did a couple of Kinley were ostensibly or really for the promotion of an international agreement to secure bimetallism, which the major's platform pledged him to secure people have philosophically set them- if possible, the senator-elect in his maiden speech laid down these proposi-

1. The financial question can be indefinitely postponed. 2. The Wilson law "shut down the mills and reduced the opportunities of labor and the earnings of investment," 3. The deficit was caused by the Wilson law, and the way to wipe it out and to increase the revenues is to pass a higher tariff law. 4. The tariff law must be "based in

protecting the American manufacturer against foreign competition. 5. The people are clamoring for the new protective and revenue-raising

every schedule" upon the principle of

Every one of these propositions is false, as all intelligent men are aware. All persons who know anything about the situation of affairs know that (1) the financial question must be settled immediately, and that every month's delay in settling it will make settlement more difficult and costly; that (2) what "shut down the mills," etc., was the appreciating standard of values which has almost destroyed the home market; that (3) the revenues produced by the Wilson bill have been larger than the revenues under the McKinley bill, the difference in favor of 1896 as compared with 1894 being \$36,672,910; that the de-McKinley & Co. have not yet gone into ficit was caused by the McKinley bill, business. Why? Because they told us all which was avoyedly constructed to which was avowedly constructed in prosperity was 'sound money' and 'confi- order to destroy the surplus, and that, dence.' By 'sound money' was meant the as a general rule, it is true that the higher the duty the smaller the revenue obtained from it; that (4) if the new law, consequently, is to be based upon the principle of protection it will not yield revenue, and if designed to raise revenue it cannot be based on the protection principle, and that (5) the business interests of the country, omitting a few manufacturers and the unlawful combinations in restraint of tion, many 'patriots' were especially anxious to save the 'honor' of the nation. They avert the continuance of uncertainty which the threat of tariff tinkering has they have kept their oath. produced.

Doubtless Platt knows these things, too, for Platt is no fool. But the Canton clique is determined to pay no attention to them, and to go ahead discharging its debts to the trusts and manufacturers, and Platt thinks it wise before the advent of the 'Advance Agent of just now to "stand in" with that clique as far as he can in order to get the federal patronage in this state. So he has adopted the clique's tactics and is yell-"I notice that many of the preachers who ing at the top of his voice for more revenue and protection, in the hope that plutocracy are now asking their pew renters the noise will daze the people and preapport of poverty. It is good to feed the vent them from recollecting the facts and seeing how preposterous and dis-

REFORMING THE TARIFF.

System That Will Not Benefit the Farmers. It is now practically assured that the republican members of the present conwho are perfectly satisfied that they gress have laid out the ground for the passage of a tariff bill nearly identical with the law of 1890, should a special saved the major and his party last No- session of the new congress be called rember.-Binghamton (N. Y.) Leader. soon after the inauguration of Mr. Mc-

Kinley. The new bill will restore rates of duty very generally as they were scheduled in the McKinley bill, in some instances increasing them, but destroycampaign is written one of the most ing every distinctive feature of the interesting chapters will contain the present law. It is announced that on lumber, wool and all agricultural products there will be higher rates imposed than the government has yet demanded Michigan's great political plunger was from such imports. So positively has this been asserted that the state grange of Pennsylvania at its recent meeting expressed itself very decidedly upon the subject of the tariff as applied to farm story lacked the essential ingredient of | products. This body was composed enan Alger deal; there was no boodle in tirely of the farmers in possibly one of the strongest protective states in the union, and it could not be called a politi-

cal body in any sense. Among the resolutions adopted was the following on the proposed increased the wealthy and generous friends of the rates of duties on farm products: "We president-elect who lifted him out of cannot deceive ourselves with the idea that any measure of protection to our plunged by the Foster failure. It is a industries offered by a tariff on imports fair presumption, also, that Alger's can avail in the slightest degree to benename is in the contribution book of the fit the grower of those crops of which he produces a surplus for export and whose prices are necessarily made in the world's market, where they must

continue to be disposed of." It will be remembered that it was the farmers more than any other class in the lumber interests, in which the Alger | this country that led the revolt against fortune was made, are favored with rich | what became known as "McKinleyism" that resulted in the defeat of Mr. Harrigenerous contributor is rewarded with son in 1892 and the election of Mr. Cleveboth political honors and the gift of a land, and in that campaign the farmgreat deal more money than he paid ers of the west made common cause out. Generosity pays usurious interest | with those at the east against the exwhen the bread cast on the political orbitant tariff of 1890. They had learned that a tariff on those things of which the farmers had a surplus did not help Mai, McKinley is said to have all the them, while the increased duties on men who dropped something into his what they had to buy raised not only contribution box slated for good things. the cost of living but the expenses of the demand, and this examination is carrying on their business.

The much abused tariff we now have is higher than the Morrill tariff of 1861, to pay Gen. Alger, the American people | which was higher than any we had had before that year and was passed as a war measure to bring money into the treasury. The feeling one has in reading the views of congressmen on the new tariff is that it contains too much politics and too little business sense .-Chicago News (Ind.).

----We look forward to a time, and that not many years in the future, when the present juncture, the new tariff the people, restored to political sanity democratic party in power, and thus, under the operations of a tariff which will yield sufficient revenue to pay the The problems of cabinet making expenses of the government, and an exdependently. But when a president has panding volume of currency, the country will be restored to prosperity, and to select a cabinet subject to the ap-

-Good times have not yet come -Those who are in a position to get back. The republican party is doing in on the ground floor of republican its best to defer their coming by enterprotection are now eagerly looking for- ing upon a general revision of the ward to the 15th of March, when an tariff, the most upsetting and businessextra session of congress will begin to der troying occupation in which it could

DR. ZERTUCHA SLAIN.

The Man Responsible for Gen. Macco's Assassinated - Cuban Patriots Vowed Vengence—If Reports Are True They Have Kept Their Oath—Zertuchs's Stories of the Maceo Tragedy Did Not Hang Together Well.

MADRID, Feb. 19 .- A dispatch received here from Havana says it is reported there that Dr. Zertucha, who was Gen. 'Autonio Maceo's physician and accompanied him at the time the insurgent leader met his death, has been assassinated.

All Cuban patriots and their adherents held Dr. Zertucha responsible for the death of Maceo, which they claimed was brought about by Zertucha's treachey. They charged that the doctor, acting under plans laid by some person in authority at the palace in Havana, enticed Maceo across the trocha into Havana province from Pinar del Rio, where his army was encamped, by means of a letter, presumably written by the Marquis Ahumada, a second in command of the Spanish forces in Cuba, asking Maceo to a conference, in order to see if some settlement of the war could not be agreed upon. Maceo fell into the trap and, accompanied by his personal staff, which included the alleged treacherous physician, set out for the meeting place, which was just beyond the trocha in

Havana province. Accounts differ as to how Maceo and his followers crossed that celebrated line. One of these declares it was by water, the party embarking at night in small boats and using muffled oars. This account is ridiculed by the Spanish naval officers, who declare that

Maceo crossed the line on land. Maceo, after crossing the line, went direct to the supposed meeting place of Ahumada and himself. Instead of finding the Spanish general he and his staff walked unwittingly into an ambush prepared by a Spanish battalion under Maj. Cirujeda and all were shot down in cold blood excepting Dr. Zertucha. Among the dead was Gen. Gomez' son, who is said to have committed suicide by the side of Maceo.

Dr. Zertucha's escape from death and the lenient treatment accorded him by the Spanish, led the Cubans to at once accuse the doctor, whose previous reputation had been somewhat unsavory, of treachery. This Zertucha strenuously denied, and in his efforts to clear himself of the imputation he made several conflicting statements as to the manner of Maceo's death.

The patriots swore they would avenge Maceo's death, and the report from Havana seems to indicate that

FARMERS' ALLIANCE. Officers Elected by the National Body i

Session at Washington. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 .- The supreme council of the National Farmers' alli- they appear ready to drop out of the ance, in session here, has decided that market. The demand for woolen the question of the aid degree having goods does not seem to have expanded a charter of its own, or continuing to | materially, and no quotabl operate under the charter of the alli- prices has appeared during the week. ance, should be referred to the aid degree for a vote, and the council agreed to abide by the result of the vote.

permit a second term for president. A resolution was adopted to petition congress to retain gypsum rock or land plaster upon the free list. The tion. Wheat dropped to F0.74 cents, list of demands adopted a year ago but rose to 83.25 cents, on conwere affirmed.

elected as follows:

Secretary and Treasurer-W. P. Bricker, Pennsylvania. Executive Committee-Mann Page, Virginia; R. A. Southworth, Denver, Col.; John Breinig, West Virginia; A. B. Welch, New York, and Hon. W. H. Stokes, of South Carolina.

A PROFITABLE DITCH.

But the Flag of Our Glorious Union was Not "In It." WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.-The business of the year just passed was the most remunerative ever experienced by the Suez canal, the traffic aggregating almost \$16,000,000. According to a report of Consul-General Penfield at Cairo, to the state department, Great Britain supplies two-thirds of the traffic, and he declares it a regretable fact that not one ship under the United States flag passed through the canal during 1896, although in 1895 four American war ships and yachts

showed their Stars and Stripes in making the passage. The total number of steamers using the canal last year was 3,457, having a tonnage of 8,594,307, and the traffic receipts were \$15,930,435. The receipts were abnormally enhanced by the number of Italian soldiers going back and forth to the Abyssinian war.

FOR VETERINARIANS.

Examinations to be Held for the Position of Meat Inspector. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 .- The United States civil service commission will hold an examination in Washington, D. C. and other large cities where there are applicants, commencing on February 26, to obtain eligibles for the position of meat inspector, bureau of animal industry, department of agriculture. Applicants must be graduates of veterinary colleges. The number of veterinary surgeons eligible for the position of meat inspectors has not hitherto been quite equal to held to replenish the registers.

THE NAVAL STEEL BOARD.

its Duties Transferred to the Steam Engineering and Construction Bureaus. WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 .- Secretary Herbert's final act before leaving for Charleston yesterday was to sign an order abolishing the naval steel board and transferring its work to the bureaus of steam engineering and construction. This board, which was constituted by Secretary Whitney, has been for nearly 12 years the source of continual trouble in the navy department, and the subject of drastic crit-

cism at all times. Change of Base.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 19 .- At the meeting of the executive council to receive annual salaries of \$6,000; of of the Baptist Young People's union | the second-class, \$5,000; consuls of the America held in Chicago, it was first-class, \$4,000; of the voted to hold the next international \$2,500; vice-consuls of the first-class. convention in Chattanooga, July 24, \$1,800; of the second-class, \$1,500; 1897, instead of at Brooklyn.

France and Brazil to Arbitrate. Paris, Feb. 19.-France and Brasil have signed a protocol referring their shall be the salary fixed by law. dispute regarding territorial bonn-

DUN'S COMMERCIAL REVIEW

More Hopeful View than Since Early in November—Enormous Increase in from Steel, Covering Eight to Twelve Months Production of the Largest Works-Better Prices for Wheat, Cotton, Wool and

NEW YORK, Feb. 20,-R. G. Dun & Co. say to-day in their weekly review of

trade: A large increase in iron and steel business on account of sales covering 8 to 12 months' production of the largest works, a better demand for woolen goods and slightly better prices for wheat, cotton, wool and iron, and a money market well adapted to encourage liberal purchases against future improvement in business, have rendered the past week more hopeful than any other since early in November. The heavy excess of merchandise exports over imports in January, the continuance of exchange rates showing that Europe is still largely indebted to this country on current account, and the prospect that congress will adjourn without any disturbing action, all have their favorable influence upon the money market and upon future undertakings.

In nearly every branch the great iron and steel industry feels the upward impulse supplied by purchases of steel rails, said to have been 500,000 tons each from the Illinois Steel Co. and from the Carnegie company, besides some from other companies, in part as low as \$15 per ton, about 100,. 000 to foreign purchasers at \$10 to \$18, but all recent sales at \$20 at eastern and \$31 at western mills. Nearly all the great railroads of the country have seized the opportunity to supply themselves with rails for one or two years', requirements. These enormous orders have advanced Bessemer pig at Pittsburgh only 15 cents per ton; with gray forge a shade lower there and no considerable change appears in finished products, although plates are unchanged in price with good demand, and nails are held at recent prices. The bar association no longer controls anything, and iron bars are quoted at \$1.05 per 100 pounds, while steel bars are quoted at 95 cents per 100 pounds. Structural forms are steady, although 100,-000 to 150,000 tons are said to be required in New York this year, and American tin plates are selling at \$3.20, which is 70 cents less than the price for foreign.

The sales of wools have sharply declined, amounting to 7,409,300 pounds for the week, against 9,157,900 for the previous week, but owing to the heavy transactions early in the month, sales for three weeks have been 30,-130,900 pounds, against 13,168,700 pounds last year. The larger mills have acquired full supplies for the present, and at an advance of prices

The heavy exports in January, following the unprecedented excess of exports over imports of merchandise The by-laws were changed so as to in the previous four months, are largely due to the fact that neither the wheat nor the cotton markets had been materially controled by speculaviction that the recent prices have Officers for the ensuing year were been low enough. The Atlantic exports, flour included, were only 1,235,-President-Mann Page, of Virginia. 375 bushels for the week, against Vice-President-C. Vincent, Indian- 1,810,304 last year, but for three weeks have been 5,090,471 bushels, against 5,448,429 last year. The western receipts are still small, for the week, only 1,507,845 bushels, against 2,415,558 last year, and for the past three weeks only 4,699,240 bushels, against 8,328,771 last year. Meanwhile the western receipts of corn have been well nigh double last year's, and for three weeks the Atlantic exports have been 6,317,214 bushels,

against 3,234,899 last year. Figures at this season do not count for much in cotton, though large supplies and diminishing domestic demand on account of the partial closing of many mills have materially in-

fluenced the market. The volume of business is not accurately represented by clearinghouse exchanges, owing to the extra holiday this year at some commercial centers. The daily average appears to be 3.4 per cent, smaller than last year. The railroad earnings begin to show improvement, being 9.7 per cent. larger than last year for the second

week of February. Failures for the past week have been 303 in the United States, against 280 last year; and 58 in Canada, against 66 last year.

A SCOTCH VERDICT

Against the Ex-City Hall Gang of Des Moines, In., Charged with Malfeasance

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 20. - The grand jury yesterday after a two months' investigation declined to indict members of the ex-city hall gang for alleged malfeasance in office. Ex-Clerk Kooker, ex-Auditor Watters, ex-Physician Matthews and others were charged with conspiracy to defraud the city by allowing bills for goods never received by the city, or that were grossly excessive. The jury returned a long report on the investigation, condemning severely the methods of conducting city business, but returning he Scotch verdict that there was no evidence sufficiently definite to base indictments upon.

THE CONSULAR SERVICE

Bill Before the House for Its Reorganiga-WABSINGTON, Feb. 20.-The house foreign affairs committee yesterday reported favorably on the bill of Mr. Adams, of Pennsylvania, to reorganize the consular service by a commission to be composed of two senators, two representatives and an officer of the department of state. The reorganization covers all offices in the service; consular clerks are to be vice-consuls and commercial agents

consuls of the second-class. The salient features of the bill are: consul generals of the first class are of the third-class, \$1,200-all of whom shall be citizens of the United States. All fees are to be covered into the treasury, and the sole compensation

No person shall be eligible who is less than 21 or more than 50 years of age, excepting persons who have been amployed in the service four years.